

**Citizen Bus Tour of the B&B Complex Fire
Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes NF
Fall 2003**

**Survey Summary
February 2004**



Shortly after the 100,000 acre B&B Complex Fire was extinguished in October 2003 the Sisters Ranger District organized a community bus tour of affected lands. Over two days, 72 area residents participated in the six-hour tour conducted by the District Ranger and key agency resource specialists. The purpose was to allow citizens to see first-hand the effects of the fire and to discuss concerns and questions with agency personnel. Subsequently, researchers at Oregon State University's Department of Forest Resources conducted a follow up telephone survey with participants to determine their reaction to the tour as well as their perspective on agency management of the fire and future alternatives for restoration.

This preliminary report summarizes the survey responses. Of the 72 tour participants, we were able to reach 50 individuals (many others were out of the area for an extended period) and all 50 agreed to answer the survey.

This research is part of a project funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and the USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station. For additional information about this survey, contact members of the research team:

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5. Has your opinion changed because of your participation on the B&B tour?

Are you more or less...	More	Less	No Change
Knowledgeable about fuel reduction practices?	62%	0%	38%
Supportive of fuel reduction programs?	68%	0%	32%
Knowledgeable of forest restoration strategies	78%	2%	20%
Confident in the ability of the FS to implement an effective fuel reduction program?	60%	0%	40%
Confident that the Forest Service will incorporate citizen concerns into future plans?	84%	0%	16%

6. How did your experience on the tour influence your opinion of the following methods for reducing forest fuels prior to a wildfire:

Is your opinion of...	More acceptable	Less acceptable	Unchanged
Prescribed fire	34%	2%	64%
Forest thinning	56%	0%	44%
Understory mowing	26%	4%	70%

7. What grade would you give the Forest Service and the other fire fighting agencies in handling the B&B fire?

A **68%**
 B **22%**
 C **6%**
 D **4%**
 F **0%**

8. Now that the fire is over, do you agree or disagree the following activities should be carried out on Forest Service lands burned by the fire (except in the wilderness area):

	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
Replanting	90%	6%	4%
Erosion control	96%	0%	4%
Harvest and sell what they can	78%	12%	10%
Only remove trees that are a safety concern	28%	66%	6%
No intervention, let nature take its course	6%	84%	10%

9. If you had to make a choice, would you rather the Forest Service now concentrate on reducing fuel in unburned areas or restoring forest land that has already burned?

12% 2% 28% 12% 44% 0% 0% 0% 0% 2%
 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10
 Reduce fuels only Half-and-half Restore only

10. **What do you think the public's role should be in deciding what happens to the burned areas.** (Comments have been summarized into thematic categories based on participants' responses)

Become informed (public meetings, forums, tours) and then be allowed to make comments and be involved in the decision-making process.	54%
Limited involvement, leave final decisions/implementation to experts (keep process from getting caught up in litigation and lawsuits).	16%
Dist. Ranger Bill Anthony and staff are doing a good job and have good working history with public—allow them to continue	12%
None/minimal, public not educated enough.	8%
Minimal, we trust the officials to do the job	6%
Other	2%
No answer	2%

11. **Now that you have been to the site of the B&B fire, how would you personally rate the following concerns regarding future fires:**

Level of concern...	Great	Moderate	Slight	None
Damage to private property	34%	32%	30%	4%
Loss of wildlife habitat	34%	46%	20%	0%
Economic loss of timber	16%	36%	32%	16%
Effects of recreation opportunities	27%	45%	22%	6%
Damage to visual quality of forests	34%	40%	22%	4%
Threat to human safety	32%	42%	22%	4%
Soil erosion	62%	32%	6%	0%

12. **What is your age?** **60 years** (mean)

13. **Gender:** **54%** Male **46%** Female

14. **Level of education completed?**

High school	8%	Bachelor's degree	44%
Some college	25%	Graduate degree	23%

15. **Participant's were asked if they had additional comments.**

The overwhelming sentiment was that this tour was an excellent idea... a great form of public involvement and method for a positive ongoing relationship with the community.